Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The contents selection system according to claim ~~1~~23 wherein:

said client includes speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said

first and second input speech information ~~input to said input information transmitting means;~~

~~said input information transmitting means transmitting the recognized speech information~~

~~processed with speech recognition by said speech recognition means to said server; and~~

~~said contents selection information preparation means preparing said contents selection~~

~~information based on said recognized speech information received from said client and based on~~

~~said preparation information.~~

3. (currently amended) The contents selection system according to claim ~~1~~23 wherein:

said server includes speech recognition means for ~~recognizing the speech of~~ performing

speech recognition on said first and second input speech information received from said client

over the network~~; and~~

~~said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection~~

~~information based on the speech information recognized by said speech recognition means and~~

~~based on said preparation information.~~

4. (currently amended) The contents selection system according to claim ~~1~~ 23 wherein ~~said prepared information storage means stores preparation information made up of speech information; wherein said contents selection information preparation means calculates~~ the interpretation of the selection in the second input speech information includes calculating the similarity in one or more acoustic characteristic quantities for each contents item between said ~~received~~ interpreted second input speech information and ~~the preparation information stored in said prepared information storage means in a first category for~~ the contents item, and ~~determines~~ determining the number of contents items for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded a pre-set threshold value;

wherein if said predetermined number of contents items is not less than a pre-set number, ~~said contents selection information preparation means~~ the interpretation process acquires speech information different ~~from the first-stated~~ second input speech information to repeat the similarity calculation thereon ~~with respect to each said preparation information stored in said prepared information storage means in a second category~~; and

wherein if said predetermined number of contents items is less than said pre-set number, ~~said contents selection information preparation means~~ the interpretation process prepares the contents selection information for each of said contents items for which the similarity value has exceeded said pre-set threshold value.

5. (currently amended) The contents selection system according to claim ~~1~~ 23 wherein the interpretation of the selection in the second input speech information includes calculating ~~said contents selection information preparation means calculates~~ the similarity in one or more acoustic characteristic quantities for each contents item between said interpreted second input

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speech information and ~~the preparation information stored in said prepared information storage means in a first category for~~ the contents item, and ~~determines~~ determining the number of contents items for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded a pre-set threshold value;

wherein if said predetermined number of contents items is not less than a pre-set number, ~~said contents selection information preparation means~~ the interpretation process calculates variations from one category to another among the other categories of ~~said preparation information~~ the contents items to prepare the contents selection information based on ~~the~~ ~~preparation information of~~ the category having the maximum variations; and

wherein if said predetermined number of contents items is less than a pre-set number, ~~said contents selection information preparation means~~ the interpretation process prepares ~~the~~ ~~contents selection information for~~ each of said contents items for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded said pre-set threshold value.

6. (currently amended) The contents selection system according to claim 2 wherein:

said speech recognition means includes means for verifying whether or not the speech recognition on said first and second input speech information has been made correctly;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means to be made correctly, then said first and second input speech information, processed with speech recognition, is output;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means not to be made correctly, then speech recognition ~~input to said input information transmitting means~~ is ~~again~~ performed again to output the speech information processed with said speech recognition;

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~~said input information transmitting means transmits the speech information processed~~

~~with speech recognition by said speech recognition means to said server; and~~

~~said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection~~

~~information based on the recognized speech information received from said client and based on~~

~~said preparation information.~~

7. (currently amended) The contents selection system according to claim 3 wherein:

said speech recognition means includes means for verifying whether or not the speech

recognition on said first and second input speech information has been made correctly;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means to be made correctly, then

said first and second input speech information, processed with speech recognition, is output;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means not to be made correctly,

then speech recognition is again performed on the first and second input speech information

received over the network from said client to output the speech information processed with said

speech recognition~~; and~~

~~said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection~~

~~information based on the speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech~~

~~recognition means and based on said preparation information.~~

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The client for a contents selection ~~client~~ system according to

claim ~~8 wherein~~ 25, further comprising:

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said input information transmitting means includes speech recognition means for

performing speech recognition on the <u>first and second</u> input speech information,[[;]] and

<u>transmitting</u> the recognized speech information, processed with speech recognition by said

speech recognition means, is transmitted to said <u>to the</u> server.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The <u>server for a</u> contents selection server <u>system</u> according to

claim 10 <u>26,</u> further comprising:

speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said <u>first and second</u>

<u>input</u> speech information received from said client over said network[[;]]

said contents selection information preparation means preparing said contents selection

information based on the speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech

recognition means and based on said preparation information.

12-22 (canceled)

23. (new) A contents selection system, comprising:

a client configured to transmit first input speech information to a server over a network;

and

a server configured to receive the first input speech information from said client, and

generate contents selection information in response to the first input speech information,

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wherein the contents selection information enables said client to select at least one

contents item from a predetermined number of contents items that narrows the possible contents

items for selection by said client, and to provide the selection as second input speech information

to the server so that the server can interpret the selection in the second input speech information

only within those possible contents items, with substantially fewer errors than without the

contents selection information.

24. (new) The contents selection system according to claim 23, wherein the contents

selection information includes categories for title, performance, and genre.

25. (new) A client for a contents selection system, the client comprising:

a transmitter to transmit first input speech information to a server over a network;

a receiver to receive contents selection information generated by the server in response to

the first input speech information,

wherein the contents selection information enables the client to select at least one

contents item from a predetermined number of contents items that narrows the possible contents

items for selection by the client, and to transmit the selection as second input speech information

to the server so that the server can interpret the selection in the second input speech information

only within those possible contents items, with substantially fewer errors than without the

contents selection information.

26. (new) A server for a contents selection system, the server comprising:

a receiver to receive first input speech information from a client over a network;

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a transmitter to transmit contents selection information generated by the server in response to the first input speech information,

wherein the contents selection information enables the client to select at least one contents item from a predetermined number of contents items that narrows the possible contents items for selection by the client, and to receive the selection as second input speech information from the client so that the server can interpret the selection in the second input speech information only within those possible contents items, with substantially fewer errors than without the contents selection information.

27. (new) A contents selection method, comprising:

transmitting first input speech information from a client to a server over a network; and

generating contents selection information at the server in response to the first input speech information,

wherein the contents selection information enables the client to select at least one contents item from a predetermined number of contents items that narrows the possible contents items for selection by the client, and to provide the selection as second input speech information to the server so that the server can interpret the selection in the second input speech information only within those possible contents items, with substantially fewer errors than without the contents selection information.

28. (new) The contents selection method according to claim 27, wherein the contents selection information includes categories for title, performance, and genre.

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